



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (206) 753-6780

March 10, 2005

Jay Manning, Director
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Jay:

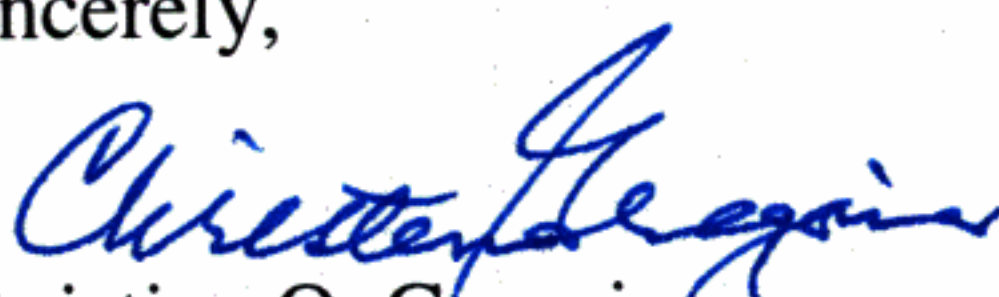
Based upon the recommendations of the Department of Ecology and the Executive Water Emergency Committee, I hereby affirm that the state of Washington is suffering from drought conditions, and I authorize and direct you, as Director of the Department of Ecology, to take the necessary actions, including necessary orders, to formally declare a drought emergency.

With snowpack levels in the mountains at record lows, many sites already completely free of snow, and what remains of the snowpack likely to melt several weeks ahead of normal, I am concerned that the state could face serious water shortages this coming spring and summer. Streamflow forecasts by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Weather Service indicate that water supplies for virtually the entire state of Washington will be well below normal for the period of April through September 2005. This shortage in spring and summer water supplies creates the strong possibility of undue hardships for water users across the state.

I am also very concerned about the harm to fish that could result from the reduction of stream flows on the mainstems of rivers and in many of the tributary reaches of the state. I encourage Ecology to cooperate with other state agencies, federal agencies, tribes and water users across the state to minimize the effects of the current conditions on this precious resource.

Throughout the coming months, I would like the Department of Ecology and other agencies to keep me informed about the latest drought conditions and the effects the drought is having on our citizens and our natural resources. Together, I want us to make sure people have the information and assistance they need to survive this drought in the best shape possible.

Sincerely,


Christine O. Gregoire
Governor